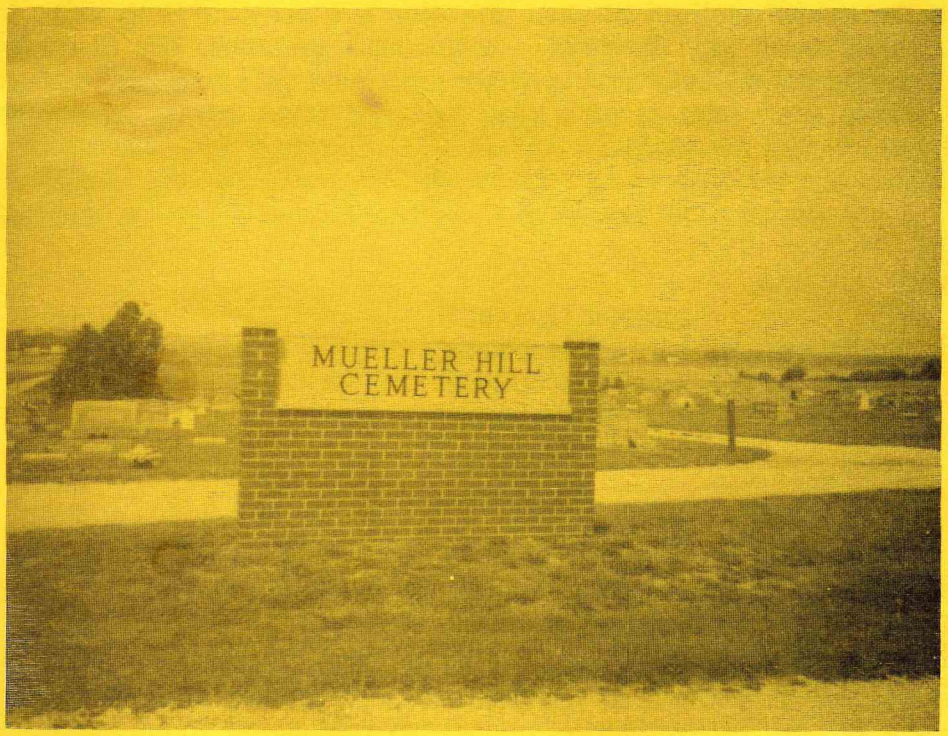
History of

MUELLER HILL CEMETERY

1859 -- 1989



Preface

For many years we have watched the growth of Mueller Hill Cemetery. What started out as a small family burial site with care and maintenance being provided by friends and relatives of those buried in the cemetery, has grown into a Not For Profit Corporation to care for a 19 acre cemetery, endowed with a Perpetual Care Fund to help maintain the cemetery grounds. This is no accident. It is a fact because of the generous support of the members of the Association. It reflects the dedication of all members of the Association. We thank each and every one of you.

We expect continued growth at the cemetery, and that will make it necessary to continue to ask for your support. The donations and gifts to the cemetery are invested in safe and secure instruments. These are US goverment securities and insured bank deposits. All are invested at the highest rate of interest available at the time of investment. Our goal is to keep a safe and insured portfolio which will generate the greatest return to the cemetery Association. Many of you have given money each year, during the Memorial Day weekend; many of you have remembered the Cemetery in your will; many of you have given of your time to take care of the many tasks necessary to maintain the cemetery. To all these people we say thank you. Without the help of ALL of you we could not afford such good care for the cemetery. If you have any suggestions or if we can help in any way please let us know.

Board of Directors
Mueller Hill Cemetery Association
PO Box 426
Pinckneyville, IL 62274

We recognize the work done by Clarence McCrary, Jr. in preparing this booklet. He spent many hours researching old records, attending our meetings, and writing and editing these pages. We appreciate his efforts and extend a hearty thank you.

It was spring in 1859 when Louis Yung's wife Katharina died. Louis buried his young wife beside the Pinckneyville to Coulterville road where it crossed the hill known as Mueller's hill. Research has not revealed why that specific location was chosen. There are several fieldstone markers in the immediately surrounding area, so perhaps there were earlier burials which are marked with these stones. Perhaps the Mueller and Yung families were somehow related. In later years, the land adjoining came into the hands of the Yung family members ... as it is today.

No written record of this small cemetery is known to exist, but the names and dates engraved on the stone show it became a neighborhood cemetery. The view from atop the hill is reason enough to inspire people to bury their loved ones there.

Some of the stones have no doubt fallen during the 130 years of the cemetery's existence. Some have weathered significantly, and one cannot be certain of the dates without extensive research in County records. Those stones which do exisit, and which have not weathered so badly they cannot be read, indicate that neighbors continued to bury their dead on the hill after Louis Yung buried his wife there.

A partial listing of names on the stones is a partial listing of the families who have resided within a few miles of the location.

1859 Katharine Stephan Yung, wife of Louis Yung

1861 Peter Loos, age 33

1865 Ellen Godwin, wife of Cornelius

1870 Peter Harmoni, age 68

1871 Ellen A Swallows, age 10

1872 Catherine Hoagland Stahlheber, age 20, wife of John Staflheber

1873 Joseph C. King, age 33

1875 Samuel Kink, age 74

1877 Karolina A Mueller, age 1 year

1879 Infant son of James & Cordelia Williams

1880 Ida M. Jung, age 3 daughter of Louis and Maria Yung

1880 Frederick W. Klingelberg, age 23

In earlier days, when it was common practice for a family to have its own family cemetery, it was customary for relatives to gather serveral times each year to cut weeds, mend fences, and straighten any leaning stones. It is probable the relatives of those buried on Mueller's hill did the same.

As the available space slowly filled, these same relatives would begin to discuss the need for more land for the graves of some of them who also hoped to be buried there. They probably discussed the matter of care, after all of them were gone.

These conversations among the families, as they tried to plan for the future of their little burial plot, led to action by some of them. During the late 1870's, increasing concern about the future of the cemetery led to the idea of a formal orgainzation of interested persons to raise funds to purchase more land near the old cemetery.

History does not record the identity of the person or persons responsible for motivating the community to act. Page two of the official minutes of Mueller Hill Cemetery Association lists the names of 27 individuals who either pledged, or deposited $15.00 for a lot or $7.50 for one-half lot, in a proposed addition to the old cemetery. This list is headed by the names of John D. Valentine, August Schaub, and John Loos. Minutes of the first meeting of the newly formed association show they were elected to serve as officers and directors of the association. It is therefore quite probable these three gentlemen were largely responsible for the expansion of the cemetery, and formation of a permanent organization to oversee its future.

The original minute book of Mueller Hill Cemetery Association has been preserved, and is in the possession of the present board of directors. Showing the wear of it's 109 years of existence, the book was originally a pressed-board bound volume of ruled pages with columns for two column bookkeeping use. The binding has parted, and many of the pages are separated, but the firm, rounded handwriting of August Schaub's hand is as clear today as it was in 1880.

Page one is headed:

"Mueller Hill Cemetery Association Organized November the 24th 1880 as (edge of page missing) Charter stated: Directors of said Association are

John D. Valentin Prest.
A. Schaub Secretary
John Loos Treasurer"

Beneath this inscription is a hand drawn plat of the proposed cemetery titled "Platt of the Cemetery"

Page two is filled with a listing of the names of twenty-seven persons along with an amount of $15.00 or $7.50

John D. Valentin	15.00
August Schaub	15.00
John Loos	15.00
John Harmoni	15.00
Wilhelm Klotz	15.00
John Mueller	15.00
Friederick Mueller	15.00
Alexander Walter	15.00
Ludwig Yung	15.00
Fred Feik	15.00
Luise Klingelberg	15.00
John Burk	15.00
Jerome West	15.00
Edward Schmidt	15.00

Members who took half lots as followers (sic)

Henry Fisher	7.50
John Tod (sic)	7.50
Thos Etherton	7.50
Catherine Litle (sic)	7.50
Ana Hogland (sic)	7.50
L. Yung Jnr	7.50
Chas Matzbacher	7.50
J.F. King	7.50
Henry Yung	7.50
Peter Loos	7.50
Henery Schaub	7.50
John Degen	7.50

The listing of twenty-seven individuals who had committed themselves to the purchase of lots or half lots was in the bold flowing handwriting of August Schaub, first secretary of the new organization. The record of the minutes of the association or society begins on page three.

A meeting was called "by the members" of the "Mueller Hill Cemetery Society", with all members present. We may safely conclude that lot or half-lot owners were considered members of the new association, because later in the minutes of meetings, it was determined that such would be the case.

The first order of business, by motion, was to appoint John D. Valentine president, and August Schaub secretary protem... That formality covered, the members proceeded to hold a formal election, by ballot, to elect three trustees for a term of three years. Thus the first officers and directors of Mueller Hill Cemetery Association were elected.

President John D. Valentine

Secretary August Schaub

Treasurer John Loos

These three were to serve as a "Board of Directors" for the same three year term.

Motion was made and carried that "Said board of directors as aboved named to be authorized to sell every person not member of said society one lot or half lot or ground for single grave as follows ... One lot 30 ft. x 40 ft. for the sum of fifteen dollars - One half lot 15 x 40 ft. at seven dollars fifty cents cash paid in hand by apply for same and ground for one single grave for one dollar cash."

Another motion provided "That Every Person Shall have Ground for single grave donadet (sic) on sufficient prove to said Trustees of the Society of not be able to buy."

The trustees were authorized to collect all money due the Society either by cash or good note.

Thus, Mueller Hill Cemetery began. It was not affiliated with any religious denomination, nor fraternal organization, but was instead completely unaffiliated, existing in its own right. It has always operated in this manner.

Layout of the New Cemetery

On November 11th, 1881, the newly elected board of directors called the membership together to report on their progress in laying out the cemetery.

"We the undersigned Directors and Trustees of the Miller Hill Cemetery Society respectfully Report as follows Oct. the 25th 1881.

That we have Laid out and Measured out Three Rows of Lots commencing at the Old Cemetery due North 10 Lots each Thirty ft (30 ft.) wide and (40ft) fourty feet long East & West commence One Ocupied by Lot 1 Mr. Klingelbert & from or between Lot 10 and 11 there is one alley of ten feet wide running North and South as per Platt and a Road for enterance of Thirty feet running from West to East at Main Road Lot number 22 and 23 which are Fourty feet East to West and Thirty feet south and North with Alley of ten feet between we left for the Benefit of the Board of Directors, to be the first if required By not Member of the Society to sell for Single Graves commence with Lot. No. 22."

This report was signed J.D. Valentine, A. Schaub, and J. Loos.

It was read and Excepted (sic) unamisly (sic).

A meeting of the Association was held in March 1882 at J.J. Bishops Hall in Pinckneyville to sell the lots in the newly platted cemetery. Individuals were assigned lots by ballot.

List of Persons Purchasing Lots at the Meeting Called March 1882

Lot Number	Name of purchaser
1	Klingelberger
2	John Loos
3	Hy Yung 1/2
3	Peter Loos 1/2
4	Louis Yung Snr.
5	Henry Fisher 1/2
5	John Burke 1/2

Lot Number	Name of purchaser
6	John Burke 1/2
6	John Burke 1/2
6	Henry Schaub
7	Alex Walter
8	John Degan
8	Marie Litle 1/2
9	John Mueller
10	V
11	V
12	V
13	Wm. Kloth
14	Fred Mueller
15	Ana Hogland (sic) 1/2
15	Thomaas Wittington 1/2
16	Road
17	George Huth
18	Charles Matzenbacher 1/2
18	Louis Yung Jnr 1/2
19	Fred Feik
20	J.F. King 1/2
20	V
21	Jerome West
22	for sale as single grave
23	for sale as single grave
24	(line contains a symbol resembling a "C")

25 line contains a symbol resembling a "C")

26 Ed. Schmidt

27 A. Schaub

28 Road

29 J.D. Valentine

30 John Harmoni

31 V (Later note "Mrs. L.M. Kane")

32 V (Later note "C.D. & W.W. Kane")

33 V (Later note "John Gruber & G. Geistoerfer")

Thus, shortly after the lots of the new cemetery association were marked out, they were sold. It is apparent that the people named had pledged themself to buy a lot or half lot when they were available for purchase.

An expanding cemetery, with a beautiful location, prompted further demand for lots on the hill. Within a few years of selling these lots, the Association expanded the cemetery westward from the "old" cemetery and the original thirty-three lots of the Association. Lots 34 through 81 were laid out and available for sale. All these locations are south of the township road which today divides the cemetery.

Over the decades, the cemetery has acquired land and expanded several times. Mueller hill is no longer just a neighborhood burial place. Wide areas of the county are represented among the lot owners today.

Minutes for the years 1887 throughout 1895 were written in German by Secretary John Loos. Meetings were held in 1887, 1889, 1891, 1893, and 1895, so the organization was meeting on a more or less regular basis, and interest was sufficient to maintain continuity.

In 1896, John Loos, writing now in English, referred to the organization as, "Miller" Hill Cemetery Association. Through the following years, The Association met from time to time and carried on the normal work of maintaining the cemetery. Additional land was acquired to the West of the orginal plat. and sale of lots continued.

During the 1898 meeting a committee was appointed to write by-laws for the growing association, and report back at the next meeting. At the 1899 meeting, the committee was reappointed. It reported during the 1900 meeting. During those years there is no indication the general membership voted on by-laws. However, on page 50 and 51 of the book, in the handwriting of Peter Becker, who was Secretary in 1898, the following information appears.

Pinckneyville Illinois

February '98

"Miller Hill Cemetery association in business session at the Court House in Pinckneyville on the above date.

Resolved by a unanimous vote that a committee of three be and here-by is appointed, by the President of said associaton for the purpose of constructing by-laws for said association. The same being without bylaws previous to above date.

Resolved, That we the members of Association shall hold at least one annual meeting at the Court House in Pinckneyville, tor the purpose of transacting business of the cemetery, and that each and every member shall be notified of said meeting at least one week ahead of time for meeting. That notice must be given through the mail.

That each and every member shall have and equal right to vote for or become a candidate for office of said organization.

That in case of death of a share holder that one heir mutually agreed upon shall have a right to attend meeting and cast a vote with due priviledge of membership.

And that there shall be a time set at least once each year for the purpose of cleaning of the grounds, that each and every member shall be warned of said set time and will be expected to attend and aid in cleaning cemetery grounds.

Also that any person has a right to become a member after purchasing ground within said cemetery and complying with terms already in progress.

And further that improving shall be let to the lowest bidder to do work required the same to be paid for out of the treasury through to legal officers, and the balance in Treasury if any shall be put on interest with note and approved security. With time of loan to be set by the board.

The above to be placed before the board for approval.

Signed C. Godwin on Committee"

Financing

From it's beginning, Mueller Hill Cemetery has been a co-operative effort by those who have loved ones buried there. Earliest minutes of the Association show that volunteers were used year after year to repair and maintain the cemetery. But as the first generations died, the succeeding generations were less inclined to come to the cemetery for the annual cleanup and fence mending.

When the number of volunteers dwindled below that needed to do the work, it was decided that someone would have to be paid to keep the grass mowed and the place in repair. Over the next few years, it was evident that the Association just did not have enough income to pay for mowing and mending. The minutes show that members were asked to contribute for the clean up.

During the 1930's, the Association began to sponsor an annual chicken fry to raise funds for the upkeep of the cemetery. Some donors gave cash, some chickens or flour for bread making. Other members of the group worked at the twenty-four hour task of preparing and serving the food on the day of the event. A number of the chicken frys were held in the area know as Firth's grove, which is on the north edge of what today is called Diamond Town.

These annual events generated income ranging from $144.00 in 1935 to $374.00 in 1940.

The board of directors today has much the same problem as those who preceeded them. Rising wages and material cost for repairs and maintainence have increased the demands on the treasury. The sale of lots, at the modest prices charged, is not sufficient to provide the continuing income the Association must have to continue maintaining the cemetery in the manner to which the members have grown accustomed. Mueller Hill belongs to those who own lots there. Each of them has the right to vote in business meetings of the Association. Each of them also has the obligation of helping, as they can, to finance its upkeep.

Mueller Hill Cemetery Association

Officers and Directors

Neil Cunningham, President

Eunice Vancil, V. Pres.

Marie Guthrie, Secretary - Treasurer

George Shute, Director

Billie Denman, Director

Tom Guthrie, Director

Dorothy Lunnemann, Director

Roy Knapp, Director

Norma McCurdy, Director

Fuller Hill Cemetery Association

Orgainized November the 24th 1880 as per Charter stated:

Directors of said Association are

John L. Valentine Pres
A. Schaub Secretary
John Cook Treasurer

Plat of the Cemetery

East

10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
	Alley 10 ft					Alley 10 ft				old
11	12	13	14	15		16	18	19	20	
33	32 Kane	31 Kane	30	29 J.D.V.	30 ft wide	27 A.S.	26 E.S.	25	24	
Alley 14 ft wide						Alley 14 ft				
34	35	36	37	38		40	41	42	43	
57	56	55	54	53		51	50	49	48	47
Alley 10 ft										Alley
58	59	60	61	62		64	65	66	67	
81	80	71	78	77		75	74	73	72	

Road of Entrance

1	John D Valentine	15	00
2	August Schaub	15	00
	John Voos	15	00
	John Harmonie	15	00
	Wilhelm Klotz	15	00
	George Huth	15	00
	John Muller	15	00
	Friederich Muller	15	00
	Alexander Walter	15	00
	Ludwig Jung	15	00
	Fred Leik	15	00
	Luise Klingelberg	15	00
	John Berk	15	00
	Jerome West	15	00
	Edward Schmidt	15	00 ×
	Members Took half Lots as followers		
	Henry Fisher	7	50
	John Dad	7	50
	Nhos Etherton	7	50
	Chathrine Lotte	7	50
	Ena Hoyland	7	50
	L. Jung Jur	7	50
	Thas Matzbacher	7	50
	J. F. Jung	7	50
	Henry Jung	7	50
	Peter Voos	7	50
	Henry Schaub	7	50 ×
	John Degen	7	50 ×